Uniform Wage Structure

1556. SHRI V. S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has requested the Union Government for effecting a uniform wage structure throughout South India; and

(b) if so, the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Kerala has been requesting the Union Government for removing the disparity in the minimum wages fixed under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 in certain traditional employments in the Southern States. The Central Government had appointed a Committee to look into the problems. The Committee had in February, 1990 made certain recommendations for bringing about uniformity in wages in the traditional employments in the Southern States. The Minimum Wages Act empowers only the State Governments to fix minimum wages in the scheduled employments under the State sphere. As such, the State Governments in the southern region were advised to take further necessary action in that regard.

Tubectomy and Vasectomy Operations in Chandigarh

1557. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of tubectomy and vasectomy operations performed in Chandigarh during last three years, year-wise; and

(b) incentives offered to couples opting for sterilisation operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SRIMATI D. K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) The number of tubectomy and vasectomy operations performed in the Union Territory of Chandigarh during the last three years viz. 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are given below:—

Year	*Tubectomy*	*Vasectomy*
1988-89	2637	289
1989-90	2107	161
1990-91	2375 (Provisional)	135 (Provisional)

(b) At present, Government of India does not give any incentive to members of general public for adopting Family Planning. However, a sum of Rs. 100 is paid to all acceptors of sterilisation on account of loss of wages. Some of the States do give some incentives from their own resources. Central Government employees who accept terminal methods of Family Planning after three or less number of children, are entitled to one incentive increment and ½% rebate in interest rate on House Building Advance taken by them. Special Casual Leave for sterilisation is also allowed.

Diversion of Forest Land for Non-Forest Purposes in Maharashtra

1558. SHRI UDAYSINGRAO GAIKWAD: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of proposals for release of forest land for